



Long Shot

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The crew of the Starfleet scout ship Sagittarius follows peculiar sensor readings to an alien world, where the natives' efforts to harness a dangerous and unstable technology have thrown the laws of probability out of balance. As disasters and miracles multiply at an ever-increasing rate, it's up to Captain Clark Terrell and his crew to shut down the experiment gone wrong before it's too late—but the odds against them might already be too great to overcome.

Long Shot Details

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Author : David Mack

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From Reader Review Long Shot for online ebook

Charles says

Took a little to get up to speed and realize we had moved on to another adventure. Once that settles in the pace is great and enjoyed all the way through. Looking forward to the next in the series.

Christopher Backa says

The continuing voyages of Scout Ship Sagittarius. I have really enjoyed David Mack's Star Trek books, especially the Vanguard and Seekers series. The story involves a science experiment gone wrong, and a request for help. The story is engaging and there is a lot of character development as we get to learn more about this crew. The book is fast paced and an enjoyable read.

ArwendeLuhtiene says

3.5/5 (review will follow shortly)

Dan says

Like so many Star Trek novels, it is a love of the characters that really makes this story shine. David Mack has created a group dynamic that is a hell of a lot of fun to read. Combined with a fun, high-stakes adventure, Long Shot makes for a great read. I'm very interested to see where these characters go in the future, and where certain relationships will end up. Some great character development for the small crew of the Sagittarius gives me a lot of hope for the future of Seekers.

With an already-excellent year in Trek lit to this point, it is no small praise to say that Long Shot is my favorite novel of the year so far.

Full review: <http://treklit.blogspot.com/2015/08/S...>

Nicky2910 says

Star Trek: Seekers: #3 Long Shot by David Mack Yes, I picked up book 3 even though I was more than a little underwhelmed by the first Sagittarius story.

The story itself dragged on a bit too long. It felt more like a SCE-story: alien culture experiments with technology they don't quite understand (either they come up with the theory themselves or get it from alien cultures or find it lying around), it goes boom and Starfleet miracle workers have to rescue everyone. There were funny little tidbits such as the fact that the sentient race on the planet of the week appeared to be frog-

like, their civilization on a technical level like ours in the 21st century, perhaps a bit more advanced with funny allusions to budget cuts (leading to disaster, of course) etc. Loved the way they looked upon the Sagittarius-crew - apparently humans resemble the primate species on their planet. And I liked the way the Prime Directive was rendered a moot point right at the beginning - although landing on the planet and then wondering why anyone got that landing on tape was a bit much. But again, all the side catastrophes, rescue operations of space stations etc aside... I've read that plot a bit too often already for it to come across as particularly engaging or novel. What bothered me a bit was the attitude of the main researcher - he screwed up royally and keeps criticizing every one of Ilucci's ideas to save his planet?

Whether quietly dropped or hint at future encounters: Dastin is tasked to look in the database whether the technology comes from a known species - the matter is never resolved in this book.

The characters still seem a bit too caricature-like - witty one-liners (although sometimes a bit outdated because is there something like a warranty or money back guarantee in the 23rd century?) are par for the course, but overall the protagonists come across as more sympathetic and real. There are some conflicts within the crew, like with Dastin (a gay Trill) or Taryl (an Orion female, but without the sexual pheromones), even though I don't quite see why Theriault who I still don't see as first officer material has so many issues with particularly Dastin. Of course, he has a cocky attitude, but is he really more insubordinate in his one-liners than everyone else on board Sagittarius? Or is it because he apparently has the same taste in men as Theriault? Liked Torvin's innocence and his wearing his emotions on his sleeve - and I'm looking forward to seeing more of him and Taryl, the world-weary misanthrope.

I still think that this part of Seekers (as opposed to the Endeavour) needs quite a bit of work. There are technical questions surrounding the Sagittarius - like the fact that only 14 people man this ship which would render longer missions quite impossible. But as established in Vanguard, the Taurus Reach is a vast section of space - so how exactly does the deployment of the Sagittarius work? Do they have downtime since there are practically only 2 shifts on board? Or are they just constantly overworked and overly tired (i.e. does Mack hope no one notices things like that?) And what the hell: there's only room for 8 people in the evacuation buoy?

The same applies to the characters: I really enjoy Torvin, I like Dastin - maybe because of his clashes with Theriault who just rubs me wrong - and Razka, I'm leaning towards Terrell, Sorak and Taryl, and am indifferent towards everyone else. And I certainly don't care about that non-com, enlisted personnell or officer stuff. I never belonged to any kind of military hierarchy, and I certainly don't plan to in the future. And I don't understand why it's such an issue on this ship that it has to be mentioned on every other page whether someone is enlisted or not.

So, there's quite a bit of room for improvement, but at least I see some potential now that I haven't seen after book 1.

Jimmy says

Enjoyable and well-written, if a bit predictable in the way problems resisted solution until there had been close to 300 pages of story.

Bjoern says

This book took me a long time to grow warm with the story. For one thing Mack is really enamored to spicing the text with pop culture references and only slightly changed current idioms put into the mouth of people from the future or completely different cultures, which never really struck me as fitting another bit was that the plot device of the red herring causing an improbability field led to a steeply escalating curve of ever more ridiculous situations and constant throwbacks to the overworked crew of SAGITTARIUS. But then the situation turned towards a solution for the problem and it could switch towards more character based writing and i got hooked again. Having only 14 members of crew helps a lot to get them all pretty good exposure during the different catastrophic failures and life threatening disasters and with the slight exception of the already mentioned overreliance on "present day like" slang the figures soon grow close to your heart. There's a thing going on between First Officer Vanessa Theriault and the Trill Dastin, but it gets only a few appearances so it can't grow into a real annoyance, future books about the ship hopefully won't expand on this whatever it is... rivalry? Hatred? A mating ritual gone awfully wrong? And if they do include it, please no more in times of peak stress levels like during the emergency landing of the SAGITTARIUS during the book's climax.

Other than that the crew under the infamous Clark Terrell (the one sharing Chekov's fate with the Ceti eel eating into the brain during TWOK) can return as often as they like, the "TOS but not the same boring old crew" factor is still fresh and entertaining and the SAGITTARIUS combines the best of the "like a RPG campaign" atmosphere a lot of the more modern authors who grew up as fans often give to their own adventures of the Star Trek book series with a good nicely presented dose of nostalgia for the old days when Kirk was the only Captain known to us.

Joe Pranaitis says

Star Trek: Seekers #3 Long Shot takes us on an adventure to a pre-warp civilization that for a test us trying to use Dark Matter to rush an FTL drive into being but backfires since the experiment then turns the technology into an improbability generator that threatens to destroy the planet Anura. Luckily the starship Sagittarius was able to pick up the subspace distortions from a near by star system and Captain Terrell and his crew came to their aid and stopped the improbability generator from destroying the local star. This was a great book and I'm looking forward to reading the next in the Seekers series.

Paul Lunger says

I'll admit to having been a bit skeptical going into the 3rd novel in the new "Star Trek: Seekers" series, but David Mack does a decent job of redeeming himself & this series w/ "Long Shot" as this series finally shows the potential that it has w/ it being a spinoff of Vanguard. In this installment the Sagittarius responds to a cry for help around the world Anura who is undergoing a massive change in luck due to a field test of a dark energy device that has caused the odds of probability to go haywire (a la DS9's "Rivals"). With the ship detected by the planet & assistance rendered, Mack takes through a story that shows the perils of this field getting worse almost to the point of the destruction of the planet itself due to these unusual laws of probability which cause everything from long winning streaks at gambling to earthquakes & fires as well as a possible CME which could destroy the planet completely. The book itself actually moves very quickly w/ an outcome for this planet never really certain until almost the end. All the crew members of the Sagittarius as well as the Austarans themselves are very real & full of emotion including a set of 8 that are rescued from an

orbiting space station that gets destroyed in an asteroid bombardment. Overall from start to finish this is a solid entry & so far the best in my opinion of the 3 "Seekers" novels so far. Here's hoping that trend continues w/ book #4 due out later this year.

Wilfred says

Phew! This book was terrible. But I also really really enjoyed it. Given that I picked it up for a quid I the charity shop, not a bad buy.

If you're the kind of star trek fan who enjoys the terrible episodes where you shout at the corny plot and laugh at the wobbly sets, then you'll probably get a kick out of this.

gary simpson says

Great

Good story . Interesting kept me guessing how it was going to turn out . Would have been nice to see the enterprise come to the rescue though .

John Yelverton says

Well, this is a rip roaring science fiction adventure that jumps from one adrenaline pumping scene to the next. My only complaints are the lack of ideological discussions inherent with "Star Trek", and that there are several things which occur in the book simply to make the book longer without really adding anything to it (other than pages that is).

Judith Paterson says

Another Star Trek universe roller coaster ride. THis time set on Sagitarius, in Kirk's, original series, timespan. |Good fast paced read with new characters to follow. Will look forward to Seekers 4

David Hayes says

Library book

Henry says

David Mack keeps up the good work

Good book love the continuity I think the native populations planet and technology had too many similarities to earth overall very good!
